

Farm Service Agency, USDA

§ 702.14

of the operation and maintenance agreement and provisions of this part.

§ 702.11 Obligations of USDA.

FSA shall, subject to the availability of funds, share the cost with participants of establishing eligible SRP's specified in the salinity control plan at the levels and rates of cost-sharing determined in accordance with the provisions of § 702.13 and SCS shall provide such technical assistance as may be necessary to assist the participant in carrying out the CRSC Contract.

§ 702.12 Availability of cost-share payments.

(a) Cost-share payments shall be made available to a participant in a CRSC Contract upon a determination by the COC that SCS has certified that the eligible SRP or an identifiable portion thereof has been established in accordance with the appropriate standards and specifications and that such SRP would serve the functional purposes for which the practice is intended.

(b) Cost-share payments may be made available under this part only for the establishment or installation of an eligible SRP.

(c) Cost-share assistance may be approved for the replacement, enlargement, or restoration of SRP's installed under a CRSC Contract if such practices, as originally installed, failed to achieve the desired salinity reduction and if:

(1) The replacement, enlargement, or restoration of the SRP is required to solve identified problems or to achieve salt reduction benefits;

(2) The approved specifications for the SRP were met in the original installation of the practice; and

(3) The failure of the SRP to solve the identified problem or to achieve salt reduction benefits was caused by circumstances beyond the control of the participant.

(d) If a participant has taken any action which tends to defeat the purposes of the program provided for by this part, the COC may withhold or require a refund of all or part of any payments otherwise due or paid that participant in accordance with this part. Such actions include, but are not limited to,

failure to properly maintain or deliberately destroying a SRP.

§ 702.13 Levels and rates of cost-share payments.

(a) The level of Federal cost-share assistance for the required SRP's for the project shall be determined by formulas as established in the USDA Salinity Control Report.

(b) Except as provided in paragraph (c) of this section, cost-share payments shall not exceed the lesser of 70 percent of the average cost or 70 percent of the actual cost of the installation of the SRP.

(c) The Deputy Administrator, in consultation with the USDA Salinity Control Coordinating Committee, may approve cost-share levels in excess of 70 percent of the average or actual cost of installation of the SRP or in excess of the level based on the ratio of on-farm and offsite benefits if such increased assistance is necessary to obtain acceptable program participation. Higher cost-share levels shall be considered only when one or more of the following apply, unless the Secretary finds at his discretion that such cost-sharing requirement would result in a failure to proceed with needed on-farm measures:

(1) On-farm benefits that are low relative to offsite benefits;

(2) Higher degree of project cost-effectiveness and magnitude of salinity reduction benefits to be achieved relative to other projects;

(3) The need for and the cost of implementing voluntary SRP's to replace incidental fish and wildlife values foregone;

(d) The combined cost-share assistance provided by Federal, State, and local governments or subdivisions thereof shall not exceed 100 percent of the cost of installing the SRP.

[52 FR 16741, May 5, 1987, as amended at 58 FR 11786, Mar. 1, 1993]

§ 702.14 Assignments.

Any participant entitled to cost-share payments under this program may assign the right to receive such payment, in whole or in part, as provided in the regulations at 7 CFR part 709, Assignment of Payment, or as provided in instructions issued by the Deputy Administrator.